

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 4 being independent. Claims 1-6 have been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability solely to improve their form.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Drawing Amendments

Applicant has amended Fig. 1B to correct minor, typographical errors therein and to bring this figure into conformity with page 18, line 23 of the originally-filed specification. A corrected, formal drawing of this figure is also attached.

Substitute Specification

Applicant submits the attached clean and marked-up copies of a substitute specification. No new matter has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant is submitting the attached Information Disclosure Statement with the required \$180 fee. Applicant respectfully requests that the references cited therein be considered by the

Examiner and that the Examiner initial and return the accompanying Information Disclosure Citation.

Claim Rejection

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being unpatentable over the citation to Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,221,400) in view of the patent to Orava et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,191).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicant submits the attached sworn translation of the priority document, thereby removing the Takahashi et al. patent as a reference against this case, since this patent was filed on January 22, 2003, which is after the September 19, 2002 filing date of this application's priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-273023. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Takahashi et al. patent in view of the Orava et al. patent be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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